

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Change the title to read -- APPARATUS FOR REDUCING THE DIAMETER OF A STENT --.

Before paragraph [0001], add the heading --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Amend paragraph [0001] as follows:

[0001] -- The invention relates to an apparatus for reducing the diameter of a stent ~~according to the features in the preamble of claim 1.~~--.

Before paragraph [0008], add the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Amend the following paragraphs:

[0009] -- The object is attained by ~~the features set forth in the characterizing part of claim 1~~ an apparatus which includes compressors which act, at least indirectly, radially on the outer surface of the stent and are supported on a circumferential abutment, wherein flexible tensioning members are provided between the radially inwardly moving segmental compressors and the abutment and actuatable by a pressure fluid in opposition to a resiliently elastic rebound force.--.

[0014] -- As the radial displacement of the compressors involve only limited distances, it is of advantage ~~according to claim 2~~ to form the tensioning members as balloons or expandable tubes.--.

[0015] -- A preferred incorporation of the tensioning members in the apparatus according to the invention is ~~set forth in claim 3~~ and realized when the compressors have concave contact surfaces in a direction towards the circumferential abutment and the abutment has concavely curved resistance

surfaces which are open towards its center axis. Contact surfaces and resistance surfaces then form for the tensioning members circumferentially virtually closed chambers in which the tensioning members expand when subject to a pressure fluid so that the compressors are able to move radially inwards while supported on the abutment.--.

[0016] -- ~~The features of claim 4 are considered to represent a particularly~~
According to another advantageous embodiment of the invention. The feature of
the invention, the compressors are hereby disposed in at least two planes in parallel relationship and radially movable in each plane independently of the compressors in a neighboring plane. Such an embodiment allows, regardless of the number of planes, to move the compressors in predetermined planes more or less severe in relation to the neighboring compressors. In this way, different crimp configurations can be realized over the length of a stent. When ball catheters are involved for example, it is oftentimes suitable to crimp a stent to a greater extent at the ends than in the central length portion.--.

[0018] --The axial length of the planes can be selected differently in dependence on the respective demands. The abutment extends then preferably across all planes ~~according to claim 5.--.~~

[0019] -- According to ~~the features of claim 6~~ another feature of the invention, it is of advantage that the compressors respectively embrace a radially inwardly directed strut of the cylindrically configured abutment and are supported upon the strut in a resiliently elastic manner. The resiliently elastic support thus continually ensures the starting position in which a stent can be inserted in the apparatus or removed from the apparatus. On the other hand, the struts provide an exact guidance of the compressors in radial direction. Tilting and wedging are hereby eliminated.--.

[0020] -- In this context, a preferred embodiment is characterized in

accordance with ~~the~~ another feature of ~~claim 7~~ the invention by configuring the compressors as hollow circular segments which have radially directed diverging legs and projections pointing toward one another adjacent to the abutment for direct support upon the struts and inwardly directed spring tongues for support upon crossbars of the struts.--.

[0022] -- In this embodiment, the compressors as well as also the abutment may be formed of a metal, in particular steel. Preferred however is the use of a suitable plastic for the compressors[[,]] ~~as set forth in claim 8~~, whereas the abutment is made of special steel.

[0023] -- ~~A further advantageous embodiment of the basic inventive idea is set forth by the features of claim 9. Accordingly~~ According to another feature of the invention, the compressors are part of a metallic spring band which extends in circumferential direction in the form of a meander and has trapezoidal zones for respective support on two neighboring struts of the abutment made of a metal.

Before paragraph **[0025]**, add the heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--.

Before paragraph **[0034]**, add the heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Pages 11, 12, delete completely.

Page 13, after the heading "CLAIMS" and before the first claim add --What is claimed is:--.